

Date: 02/15/2012

Committee: House Culture & The Arts  
House Hawaiian Affairs  
House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1557,HD1 (hscr294-12) Relating to Culture

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Department of Education to include instruction in Hawaiian language, culture, or art as part of the After-School Plus Program.

Authorizes individual schools to require the After-School Plus Program on their campuses to include a Kupuna Program through which Hawaiian language, culture, and art is taught through community elders. (HB1557 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the overall purpose of HB 1557, HD1 (HSCR 294-12) to enrich the activities offered in the after school plus (A+) programs to specifically include Hawaiian language, culture or art. The Department urges that careful consideration be given to the structure and restricted purposes of the A+ program so that any changes to the A+ program do not inadvertently place a child's eligibility for federal child care assistance at risk or create unintended consequences for existing collective bargaining agreements.

The A+ program is voluntary and is not part of the compulsory education services provided by the state. The program is intended to provide after school child care services and supervision to eligible elementary students who, due to the employment or educational status of their parents, would otherwise be unsupervised during after school hours. If space is available, at-risk children participate in the A+ programs if recommended by the school principal. The A+ program is designed to be fiscally self-sustaining, supported by monthly fees assessed to students and subsidies from the Department of Human Services (DHS) for students who qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) after the academic day ends.

The A+ program is not designed to be an extension of the regular school day with mandated curricula or formal instruction by certificated teachers. Nor should the activities in after school hours duplicate or

supplant the regular academic program. To do so would jeopardize students' eligibility of receiving DHS subsidies designated for "child care" as defined by DHS rule.